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STANDISH-WITH-LANGTREE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



**ANNUAL
REPORT ..**

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1941

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STANDISH-WITH-LANGTREE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



Chairman :

T. KENYON, Esq., J.P.

Vice-Chairman :

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Councillors :

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R. FINNEY, Esq.
(Deceased Oct., 1941).

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Clerk :

D. CHISHOLM, Esq.

Staff of the Public Health Department :

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

J. G. HAILWOOD, M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector :

ALLEN COUPE, M.S.I.A., Cert.S.I.B.

Clerk :

Miss M. PICKING,

STANDISH,

March, 1941.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Standish-with-Langtree Urban District Council.*

LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Health of Standish during the year 1941.

During the year considerable extra work has fallen upon the Health Department as a result of the Civil Defence Services. These Services are working smoothly and appear to be adequate. A detailed report of them is not included, however, for reasons of security.

Although this extra work and the Emergency Powers (1939) Act have curtailed health improvements, every effort has been made to maintain the efficiency of the service.

During the year a scheme for immunisation against Diphtheria was commenced and I may state that there has been a very satisfactory response by the parents of Standish.

My thanks are due to my fellow Officials and members of the staff for their help and co-operation.

I am, Mrs. Bottomley and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. G. HAILWOOD,

Medical Officer of Health.

General Statistics for 1941.

Area (acres).....	3,266
Population (Census 1931)	7,337
Estimated Population (end year 1941).....	8,725
Number of inhabited houses (end year 1941) according to the Rate Books.....	2,358
Density of Population per acre	2.57
Rateable Value	£40,762
Product of a Penny Rate	£159 0s. 0d

1. PHYSICAL FEATURES AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Standish-with-Langtree is situated North of the County Borough of Wigan which it adjoins. The Rural District of Wigan lies to the East and West, whilst the Urban District of Coppnall lies on the Northern Boundaries. The maximum distance between the boundaries is about five miles. The height above sea level varies from 88—375 feet.

The geological formation consists of black loamy soil, with a sandy sub-soil generally, but in the eastern parts there are considerable stratas of hard rocks. There are numbers of seams of coal throughout the area.

The District is typically Urban in character and comprises a principal centre which lies on the main Wigan—Preston Road, and a small isolated area to the South-West known as Standish Lower Ground. The chief industries are Coal-Mining, Agriculture and Bleaching and Finishing.

2. VITAL STATISTICS.

		Total.	M.	F.
Live Births:	Legitimate	101	58	43
	Illegitimate	1	1	0
	Total	102	59	43

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident
population 11.7

Crude death rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population 9.2

Adjusted death rate (comparability factor) per 1,000 of the
estimated resident population 12.3

	Total,	M.	F.
Deaths of Infants under one year of age	3	2	1
Death rate of Infants under one year of age	29.4.		

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

						Deaths.
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

CANCER.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	7
Death Rate from Cancer per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	0.80
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil
„ Diphtheria [all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil
„ Diarrhoea (all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil

The details of deaths are as follows :—

Cause of Death.	Male	Female
Heart Disease	27	9
Cancer (all sites)	2	5
Diabetes	1	—
Nephritis	1	—
Pneumonia	3	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	1
Acute Infective Encephalitis	—	1
Suicide	2	—
Other Defined Causes	5	1
Senile Decay	4	6
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	5	4
Leukaemia... ..	1	—
Total	52	29

3. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FROM THE AREA.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Specimens are sent to the Bacteriological Department of the Wigan Royal Infirmary for examination.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Arrangements have been made with the Fever Hospitals for removal of patients to hospital by their ambulance.

Non-infectious and accident cases may obtain the Wigan County Borough Ambulances. There is, however, a definite need for a Local Ambulance, preferably under the control of the Local Authority.

HOSPITALS.

Arrangements have been made with the Wigan County Borough for the reception of cases of infectious disease at Whelley Isolation Hospital at a cost varying from 9/- to 12/- per day according to the disease, plus an ambulance charge of 15/-.

Agreement with Blackburn Smallpox Hospital to take cases of Smallpox costs a retaining fee of £20 per annum.

General Hospital facilities exist at the Lancashire County Hospital, Public Assistance Hospitals at Billinge and Chorley where the arrangements have been made for the admission of maternity cases.

In addition, numerous residents of the district make use of the facilities provided by the Wigan Royal Infirmary.

There are no Nursing Homes in the area.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

This work is carried out by the County Council.

A Child Welfare Centre is provided at the Methodist Church Hall, which is open every Wednesday afternoon. The Medical Officer of Health, in his capacity as Assistant County Medical Officer of Health, attends and is assisted by the County Council Health Visitor. Advice on feeding and the general health of infants and toddlers is given, while free milk, Cod Liver Oil, etc., are provided in necessitous cases.

There is no regular Ante-Natal Clinic provided in the district, although a number of expectant mothers attend the Child Welfare Clinic and receive the necessary supervision.

One County Council midwife resides in the district.

A County Council Health Visitor and School Nurse undertake the visiting of all newly-born infants in the districts.

At the time of writing arrangements are being made for the Child Welfare Centre to be transferred to Ashfield House.

4. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER.

Water is provided for the district under an agreement with the Liverpool Corporation, at a cost of 6s. 9d. per 1,000 gallons to a maximum of 350,000 gallons a day ; beyond this the cost is 1s. 3d. per 1,000 gallons.

The water in an unfiltered state comes from the Anglezark Reservoir at Rivington by a 12 inch main to the Standish Water Works at Green Lane, where it is filtered and chlorinated. The water is soft and of good qualities. Samples have been examined bacteriologically, quarterly, and found to be satisfactory.

All the houses in the district are supplied from this source, and the supply has been adequate at all times.

SEWAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Standish has a water carriage sewage system to which most houses in the district are connected.

The Local Authority maintains two sewage works—at Arbour Lane and Chorley Road, and two sewage farms—at Fairhurst Avenue and Langtree. All four are grossly overloaded and cannot deal efficiently with the increased influx of recent years. Further, they are dilapidated and require extensive repairs.

A new sewage scheme has been prepared and is ready for presentation to the Ministry of Health. Unfortunately this has been held up owing to war conditions. The Ministry have sanctioned the Wigan Road Section of this scheme to be commenced and at the time of writing tenders have been set for the work to commence.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The River Douglas, Shevington Brook and Barley Brook flow through the district. These are inspected periodically. There is some pollution of the River Douglas from the Chorley Road Sewage Works, due to the overloading of these works as noted earlier in this Report.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

There are still a number of houses which are not connected to the main sewage scheme, and it is necessary to urge the need for the abolition of privy middens and pail closets. Houses in the sewered area should be connected to the main sewage system; while the more isolated houses should have water closets and septic tanks.

There are still 39 privy middens and 38 pail closets in the district.

Three conversions have been made during the year and statutory notices served in 5 instances at Standish Lower Ground.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

All household and shop refuse is removed by the Council's own motor vehicles and is disposed of by tipping.

There are 2,600 moveable ashbins which are emptied weekly and 39 privy middens which are emptied monthly.

A salvage campaign has been vigorously carried out.

Waste paper, materials, etc., have been collected separately, sorted out and baled at the Grove Lane Depot which came into use during the year mainly for this purpose.

The following table shows the results and success of the Salvage Scheme during the year 1941.

	£	s.	d.
Paper—63 tons 13 cwts. 0 lbs.	257	9	6
Metals—37 tons 14 cwts. 0 lbs.	50	16	7
Rags—2 tons 13 cwts. 0 lbs.	14	12	6
Bottles—787 dozen	17	16	4
Aluminium—69 lbs.	1	8	10
Rubber	0	3	0
Bones	0	12	8
	£342	19	5

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

During the year 24 Shop Inspections were carried out under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934.

CAMPING SITES.

There are no camping sites in the area.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

General observations were made during the year, but no action was necessary.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no Swimming Baths or Pools open to the public in the area.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Slight bug infestation was found in six houses in the district. The walls after being stripped of paper and all woodwork were thoroughly sprayed with an insecticide (vermicine) and the house fumigated with formaldehyde.

When tenants are removed into new Council Houses due measures are taken for the detection of bed bugs.

5. SCHOOLS.

School Medical Inspections are carried out by the Lancashire County Council, but since the Medical Officer of Health is also the assistant County Medical Officer of Health responsible for this work, a great advantage in the Public Health Administration is obtained. A full knowledge of the people and the needs of the district is of great help in the examination of the children and prompt action can be taken in the event of an outbreak of infectious disease.

Close co-operation exists between the Medical Officer of Health, the school teachers and school attendance officers, who supply a weekly return of school children who are absent from school through sickness.

All the schools in the district are fairly old, but their general sanitary condition is satisfactory. All have ample main water supply.

The following is a list of the schools and the number of scholars attending the school :—

School.	Number of children on roll.
Standish National Girls' and Infants'	344
Standish Grammar	184
St. Marie's R.C.	211
Standish Lower Ground	80

SCHOOL CLOSURE.

It was not found necessary to close any of the schools during the year.

HEALTH SERVICES FOR SCHOOLS.

Medical Inspection is carried out by the Assistant County Medical Officer of Health at regular intervals and advice on general health problems given.

Unfortunately there is no School Clinic provided for the inspection and treatment of minor ailments, eye and ear defects and dental caries, although there is definite need for such a clinic in this area, especially since the child population is steadily increasing. Representations have been made to the Lancashire County Council for this and it is hoped that they will provide a Standish Minor Ailment Clinic in the near future.

6. HOUSING.

The total number of inhabited houses in the district at the end of 1941 was 2,357. There has been little change in the housing conditions during the year. The general standard is good, most of the older property having been dealt with under the Housing Acts, 1930-6.

The position with regard to overcrowding conditions in the area is now satisfactory. This satisfactory condition has been reached by the large number of houses which have been built both by private enterprise and by the Council during the recent years. Since 1930, no fewer than 947 new dwellings have been erected, of which 304 were prepared by the Local Authority.

During 1941 three new houses were completed. All of these were built by private enterprise.

Number of houses erected during past years :

Houses built by Private Enterprise.	Houses built by the Council.	Year.
628	304	1930/39
12	Nil	1940
3	Nil	1941
643	304	

7. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**MILK SUPPLY.**

All dairies, cowsheds and milkshops in the district were inspected regularly during the year, about once a month, and generally the premises were found to be satisfactory.

A total of 208 visits of inspection were made. The cleanliness of the cows and milkers is a point to which too much care cannot be given. Milk being a highly nutritious substance, is an ideal cultural medium for germs, and scrupulous care is necessary in all the processes of milking and distribution to prevent contamination and the spread of disease.

On the 31st December, 1941, there were registered under the Milk and Dairies (Amendment Act), 1922, and the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926:—

30 persons as Cowkeepers and Purveyors of Milk and 6 persons as Purveyors of Milk.

Approximately 587 cows are kept in the district for dairy purposes.

A total of 108 visits were made for the purpose of inspecting dairies and cowsheds during the year. In the course of these visits 88 Milk Samples were taken for examination for Tubercle Bacilli of which three were found positive. These were dealt with under the Tuberculous Order, 1925, by the Lancashire County Council. 48 Sedimentation tests were taken and all proved to be satisfactory.

At the request of the Lancashire County Council, 16 samples of Milk were taken from schools for examination for Tubercle Bacilli.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Since January, 1940, all slaughtering has been done centrally under Government Control. As a result the seven slaughter-houses have been closed down, and no visits have been necessary.

Periodical inspection of meat and foods exposed for sale in shops and hawkers' carts have, however, been carried out.

8. FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT 1901 AND FACTORIES ACT 1937.

No change has occurred in the number of factories and workshops in the district since last year.

Inspections have been made but no action was necessary on account of sanitary defects. Conditions were satisfactory and washing has been carried out regularly.

9. PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

87 cases of infectious disease were notified to the Department under the Infectious Disease Notification Act, compared with 166 during 1940.

This last year has been fairly normal, and there has been no epidemic of any infectious disease.

SCARLET FEVER.

11 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year. Of these two were removed to Isolation Hospital for treatment and there were no deaths.

DIPHTHERIA.

7 cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year. Of these four were removed to Isolation Hospital for treatment and there were no deaths.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

COMPLETELY IMMUNISED.

Ages—Years.	March, 31st.	June, 30th.	Sept., 30th.	Dec., 31st.	TOTAL.
-1	3	1	—	—	4
1	19	11	8	6	44
2	23	21	7	4	55
3	14	19	3	4	40
4	25	14	6	1	46
5	43	11	5	4	63
6	43	6	1	5	55
7	50	7	—	2	59
8	52	8	—	4	64
9	39	10	—	—	49
10	47	9	1	1	58
11	44	13	—	4	61
12	47	14	—	1	62
13	35	8	—	3	46
14	1	1	—	—	2
15	1	—	—	—	1
16	—	—	—	—	—

Total ... 709 Completely Immunised.

COMMENCED IMMUNISATION.

Ages—Years.	March, 31st.	June, 30th.	Sept., 30th.	Dec., 31st.	TOTAL.
-1	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—
2	—	—	—	—	—
3	—	—	—	—	—
4	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—
6	—	—	—	—	—
7	—	—	—	—	—
8	1	—	—	—	1
9	1	1	—	—	2
10	—	1	—	1	2
11	1	—	—	—	1
12	—	—	—	—	—
13	—	—	—	—	—
14	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—
16	—	—	—	—	—

Total ... 6 Commenced Immunisation.

URBAN DISTRICT OF STANDISH.
NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1941.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	Total Cases at all Ages	Under 1	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED YEARS											65 and over	Deaths
			1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45			
Measles ...	34	1	—	3	5	4	13	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	
Whooping Cough ...	23	—	4	2	9	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Scarlet Fever ...	12	—	—	—	—	1	3	5	2	1	—	—	—	—	
Diphtheria ...	7	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	
Erysipelas ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	
Pneumonia ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	
Cerebro-spinal Fever ..	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	
Para-Typhoid Fever ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	
Chicken Pox ...	2	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Totals ...	88	1	5	6	14	10	23	11	6	5	2	3	2	—	

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

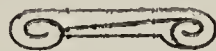
Towards the end of the year, the Council approved a scheme for the free immunisation of children against Diphtheria. During the year, 1941, there has been a very satisfactory response by the parents of Standish, and the campaign has been pressed with vigour.

School children are treated at the schools, with the co operation of the head teachers, while pre-school children are treated either at the schools or at the Child Welfare Centre.

The injections are given by the Medical Officer of Health, assisted by the School Nurse. The immunising agents used are Alum-precipitated toxoid to children under 10 years, in doses of 0.2 c.c., followed by 0.5 c.c. a month later. Children of 10 years and over receive three doses of Toxin-Anti-Toxin Floccules at intervals of a fortnight. Immunity is acquired some three months after the final injection.

The injections are given in the upper arm, and it is not usual for any reactions to occur with this technique.

The children do not mind the injections, and in fact take a keen interest in them when the treatment is carried out in the class as is frequently done.



TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1911.

NEW CASES.

Ages.	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
1	—	—	—	3
5	—	—	—	4
10	—	—	1	2
15	1	—	—	—
25	3	2	—	—
35	2	—	—	—
45	—	—	1	—
65 and over	1	—	—	—
Totals ...	2	1	2	9

DEATHS.

Ages.	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
1	—	—	—	1
5	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—
25	1	1	—	—
35	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—
65 and over	1	—	—	—
Totals ...	2	1	—	1

All Tuberculosis cases were notified before death took place and generally notification is prompt and satisfactory.

The County Council provide facilities for the treatment of Tuberculosis and these services are fully used and appreciated. The Tuberculosis Dispensary for the Standish District is in Mesnes Park Terrace, Wigan, and patients may be referred there for examination by their own doctor or by the School Medical Officer.

